

## MEETING MINUTES

### Children’s ACT 264 Advisory Board/SPSC Joint Meeting

October 23, 2020

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:** Joanne Crawford

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Discussion Points</u>	<u>Decisions/Actions</u>
<b>Joint ACT 264 Advisory Board &amp; State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:00-12:05)</b>		
<p><b>Attending:</b> Alice Maynard, Doug Norford, Matt Wolf, Ron Bos-Lun, Cinn Smith, Theresa Sunderland, Kris Holsman-Francoeur  <b>Guests:</b> Christina Thompson (DMH), Joanne Crawford (DMH), Cheryle Wilcox (DMH) Sandi Yandow (VFFCMH), Diane Bugbee (DAIL), Selena Hickman (DAIL), Amy Roth (DAIL)</p>		
<p>Discussion with Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) on Priorities for SOC</p>	<p><b>What are the top three concerns due to budgeting constraints for the coming year?</b> For our developmental disability services, we do not have caseload restrictions, but money is tight. There have been no changes to family managed respite and the Bridge Program. We did make some policy changes to make funds available to families when COVID hit. The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) is concerned about the changes to education and in school special services. Some young people, with disabilities, are graduating but needed a longer transition period and this is putting stress on DAIL’s budgets. The agency is also concerned about children accessing online learning and parents needing to be out of the house for work.</p> <p><b>Do you see any creative and promising innovations in practice emerging from the pandemic for how we serve Vermont’s children and families going forward in our “new normal” world?</b> DAIL has seen a lot of innovation with electronics. Families have had success engaging with providers through online platforms. They have held virtual Town Halls for individuals and families receiving services which allowed people to provide feedback on their services. These have worked extremely well. DAIL has worked to stabilize its provider system with changes during this time in order to help them better service individuals and families. We will not make major policy changes during State of Emergency (SOE) but when the SOE is over we will return to many of our previous methods, but some will not. It is easier to get everyone to the table for a meeting using a virtual platform- it is much easier for parents. We will maintain some of the remote platforms because it increases connectivity with individuals and families. With some flex dollars for agencies, many were able purchase iPads or other devices for individuals which were really appreciated.</p> <p>The group also asked the DAIL representatives about how COVID has affected agency staffing. DAIL indicated that the staffing vacancies are more pronounced now for a variety of reasons. It will take some time to get the staffing back up to pre-COVID levels.</p> <p>Children with dual diagnosis of disability and mental health conditions are experiencing more crises being at home all the time. Because we do not have a fully integrated system of care it is difficult to always meet all needs.</p>	

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	<p>DAIL was very excited about the Mobile Response program. This program has the potential to address some of the silo issues we face. Hopefully, it will get that rolling again.</p> <p>The joint group asked DAIL representatives, are there are any concrete suggestions for Act 264 to put in their recommendations?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please share the COVID recovery policy with directors.</li> <li>2. Encourage cross training of service providers and the integration of services.</li> <li>3. Need more clinical services statewide, such as psychologists and psychiatrists.</li> </ol>	
<p>Integrated Family Services (IFS) Update – Cheryle Wilcox</p>	<p>State Interagency Team (SIT) decided to hold off on SIT visits for now. St. Albans Local Interagency Team (LIT) will be holding a virtual meeting on November 2, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM and Cheryle asked if anyone from the Act 264/SPSC group would like to attend.</p> <p>The final Analysis of Children’s Residential System of Care report will be out soon. It is well organized and should be easy for people to navigate. Cheryle went over a few of the highlights of the data provided.</p> <p>Even though we did not get the funding for Mobile Response this past year, we are not giving up on it.</p> <p>Half of the SAMSHA grant received by DMH has been spent to support services and crisis activities for the public and service providers.</p> <p>DMH has launched an anti-racism group within our department and a couple of DMH personnel are also part of a Chittenden County racial equity group.</p> <p>Eva Dayon, a DMH Quality Management Coordinator would like to come to the next Act 264/SPSC meeting to talk to the group about DMH’s anti-racism efforts. The group expressed interest at having Eva come meet with them.</p>	
<p>Approval of September Act 264 Advisory Board/SPSC Joint Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Alice moved to accept the September minutes; Cinn seconded. There were four ayes and two abstentions. The September meeting minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>Jessica Bernard – Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health (VFFCMH) and Local Program Standing Committee (LPSC) update</p>	<p>DMH is working with the Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health (VFFCMH) using Block Grant funds for a grant to support work with up to five designated agency Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) local program standing committees. Many CYFS committees are having trouble finding and retaining members, so one of the goals of this program is to help with recruiting efforts. Training for members/committees will also be funded as well as creation of guidelines and documents to make sure they are meeting administrative rules.</p> <p>Jessica Bernard will be leaving DMH and starting a new position at DAIL as of November 6, 2020. The group expressed gratitude for Jessica’s work at DMH and wished her well in her new role.</p>	

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Next Act 264/SPSC Joint Meeting	Alice reminded everyone that the next meeting is on the third Friday of the month, not the fourth.	
Adjournment	Alice moved to adjourn; Doug seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.	
Public Comment	Sandi Yandow let the group know that Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) has expressed interest in working with the VFFCMH to enhance their CYFS LPSC.	
	<b>Break (12:05-12:15)</b>	
<b>State Program Standing Committee (SPSC) Meeting (12:15-2:15 pm)</b>		
<b>Attending:</b> Ron Bos-Lun, Cinn Smith <b>Guests:</b> Christina Thompson (DMH), Joanne Crawford (DMH), Sandi Yandow (VFFCMH), Lorraine Sylvain (Addison County LIT), Cheryle Huntly (CSAC), Rachel Cummings (CSAC), David Hallam (CSAC)		
Committee Business	The group reviewed their materials and prepared for the designation meeting.	
Counseling Service of Addison County Designation Meeting	The group asked their prepared questions of the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) representatives.	
Children's SPSC Designation Recommendation	Christina shared the designation findings for CSAC with the group again. The group discussed CSAC and decided to recommend to Commissioner Squirrel that CSAC be redesignated with minor deficiencies.	
Recruitment of Members	The State Program Standing Committee needs members, so we will be working on recruitment.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.	